

CHAPTER 4 SECTION 2.4

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT FLUOROSCOPIC STUDY

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

74210 - 74249

II. DESCRIPTION

The gastrointestinal study is a fluoroscopic procedure performed for the detection and evaluation of disorders of the pharynx, cervical esophagus/esophagus, stomach and duodenum. Single contrast images are created with barium sulfate contrast suspension. Double air contrast images are created with effervescent agents or the production of air. Cineradiography or video-fluoroscopic examination and, in addition to the standard barium meal, has aided in detecting disorders (e.g., esophageal webs) and in assessing motor disorders (e.g., cricopharyngeal spasm and achalasia).

III. POLICY

A. A gastrointestinal study is not indicated in the follow-up assessment of the asymptomatic patient treated for duodenal ulcer.

B. An upper gastrointestinal study is not indicated in the preoperative cholecystectomy patient unless symptoms suggest an upper gastrointestinal abnormality in addition to the documented gallbladder dysfunction.

IV. LIMITATIONS

Video-fluoroscopy/cineradiography is not covered when used in the treatment of a speech impairment unless the impairment is suspected to be caused by a physical defect/disorder.

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